Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the president, Dr. Laura Sprabery, at 12:05 PM on January 9, 2012, in the Coleman building, Room A101.

Attendance

The following members were present:

Maggie DeBon, PhD, Denis DiAngelo, PhD, Elizabeth Fitzpatrick, PhD, Bob Foehring, PhD, Stephen King, MD, Haavi Morreim, JD, PhD, William R. Morris, MD, Linda K. Myers, MD, Edwards Park, PhD, Kaushik Parthasarathi, PhD, Larry Reiter, PhD, Renate Rosenthal, PhD, Laura Sprabery, MD

The following guest(s) was (were) present:

Polly Hofmann, PhD

Approval of minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written. Minutes had previously been distributed by electronic means.

Business

Dr. Sprabery raised a recently-emerging question regarding indigent patients’ access to oncology care. She indicated that within UT’s new oncology practice, in which UT became partnered with West Clinic (phasing out the affiliation with Boston Baskin Clinic), uninsured patients may be lost. The new clinic will not accept patients without a payment up front of over $300, in contrast to the Boston Baskin Clinic, which has traditionally accepted patients without payment. Boston Baskin has now become affiliated with Baptist (previously with Methodist), whereas West Clinic is now affiliated with Methodist (formerly with Baptist). Indigent patients can not realistically torn to the Med, because the Med does not have a standard oncology service—a factor that dates back to the mid-1990s when the Med eliminated certain services after the advent of TennCare.

Dr. Sprabery indicated that she has patients who have been cared for thus far, who simply may not get any more oncology care, given that they can not afford such an up-front payment. Dr. Hofmann indicated that she will pass the question along to Dean Stern.

Dr. Hofmann then updated the searches for various open chairmanships. In the search for Chair of Pediatrics, the six candidate list has now been reduced to five. Those candidates will begin returning for second visits in January. All five have expressed interest in continuing to be considered.
Microbiology, immunology and biochemistry now have an interim chair, Mike Whitt. This may continue for a time, until a search for an external chair is launched. In Pharmacology, Dr. Sharp stepped aside temporarily because of illness, but it is anticipated that he may return shortly. In Preventive Medicine the interim chair is Karen Johnson, who is an internal candidate for permanent chair. Applications for the permanent position have been limited, and it is hoped that additional applicants will appear in the near future. Search firms are not as effective for seeking researchers as for seeking other kinds of leadership in a medical center.

The DFAC asked about recent changes within UTMG. There have been quite a few changes in leadership at UTMG, and a major change with the emergence of University-LeBonhuer Physician Group. Dr. Hofmann will see if Dean Stern wishes to address the DFAC on these.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the committee will be held on February 7, 2012, at 12:00 Noon in the Coleman building, Room A101.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

E. Haavi Morreim, JD, PhD
Secretary